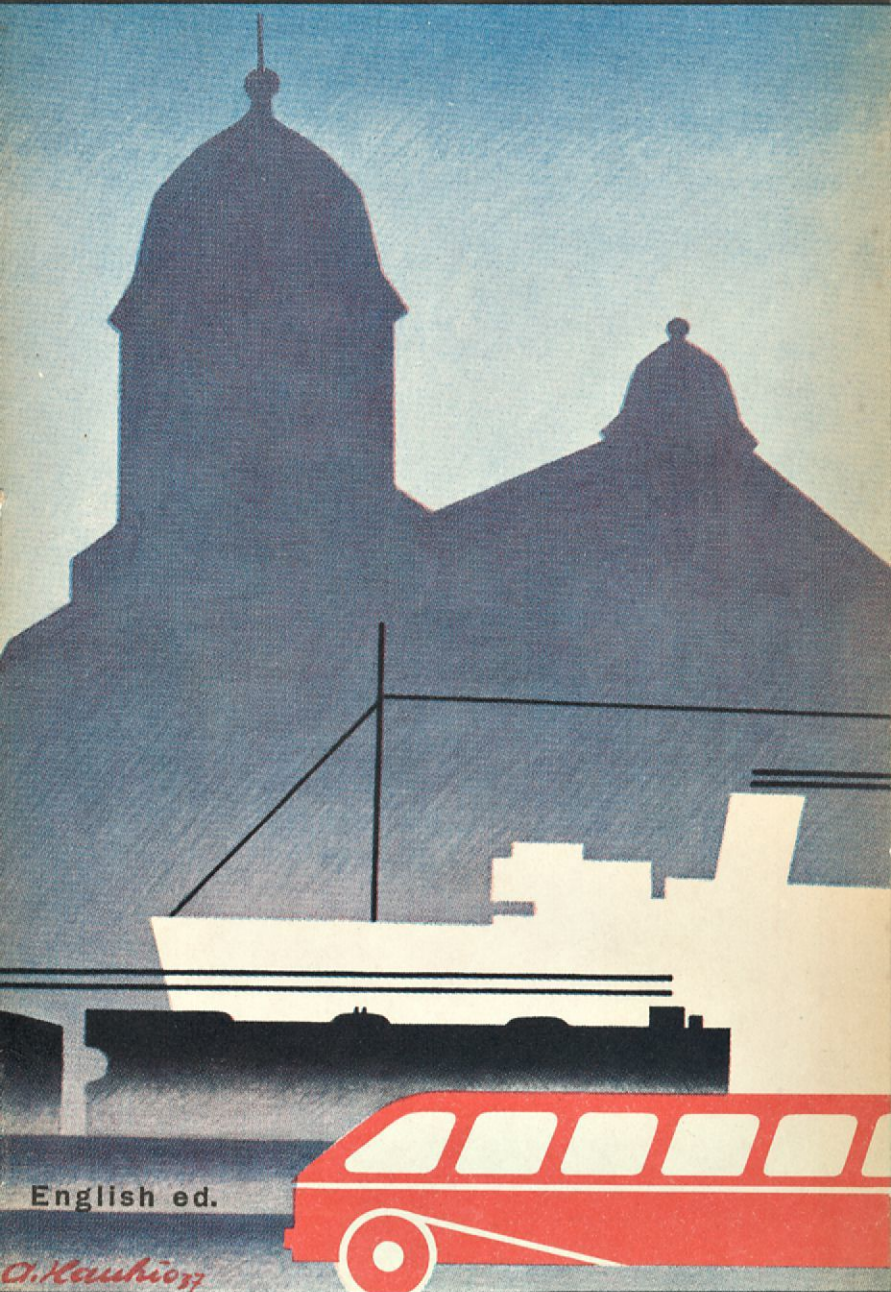


# VIIPURI



English ed.

*O. Kaubio*

SUOMI • FINLAND • FINLANDE

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Viipurin kaupungin Retkeilylautakunta

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*The Old Cathedral*

Photo: Pietinen

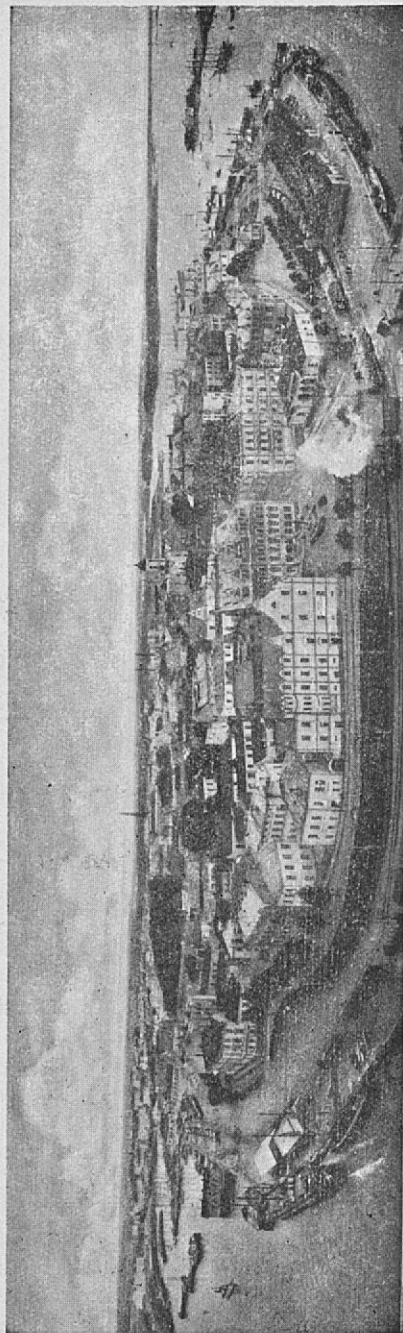
## VIIPURI

TWO FACTORS, geographical situation and the course taken by history, have helped to make Viipuri what it is to-day: the second largest town in Finland and the centre of business, maritime trade and cultural life in East Finland. The same factors are largely responsible also for the growing importance of Viipuri of late as a centre of tourist travel in Finland.

Situated at the north-eastern loop of the Gulf of Finland, at the outlet of an important water-route leading into the interior, Viipuri is

the NATURAL MARITIME GATEWAY TO EAST FINLAND. Ages ago already, one of the most-frequented natural routes between the West and the East also lay through Viipuri. Owing to its command of this route the locality makes its appearance at an early date in the pages of history.





*Viipuri from the Castle tower*  
In the foreground the Old Town on its cape, on the left the  
North Harbour, right the South Harbour

Photo: Nyblin



Viipuri Castle

Photo: Helios

IN OUR DAY Viipuri is the junction of many railways and dozens of motorbus routes. Big liners carry into its harbours greetings both from near-lying countries and from lands beyond the oceans. These harbours are the terminus for the Saimaa Canal, a link between the vast lake areas of the interior and the sea; the outer harbour Uuras (Trångsund) is known as the biggest timber-exporting port in Europe. Regular air services are also being planned.

It has been said in regard to travel in East Finland that "there is no escaping Viipuri" — and that is true enough, seeing that the town lies on all the main routes, or forms their starting-point — but, Viipuri is also well worth visiting for its own sake.

VIIPURI IS AN OLD TOWN, with the storms and calms of over six centuries behind it. Yet at the same time

VIIPURI IS A MODERN TOWN. Keenly alive to the changing manifold demands of our developing times, it rapidly chooses and assimilates the best that progress bring in its train. One is justified in saying that



The Railway' Station

Photo: I. Raekallio



Art Museum and Art School

Photo: Pietinen

VIIPURI IS A TOWN WHERE THE CENTURIES MEET, for from each phase of its existence it still preserves something. This special character of the town lends to it a charm the visitor is not slow to feel.

NATURE, TOO, has been generous to Viipuri, giving the town its setting of gleaming waters and dark forest, its vantage points with their magnificent views, its surroundings, famed for their beauty.

VIIPURI IS A HOSPITABLE TOWN, receiving with open arms visitors from near or far. It is an often heard truth that strangers feel at home in the town, probably because of the unaffected simplicity and openness of the Carelian character and the liveliness inseparable from a seaport.

GOOD HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS cater for the comfort of the visitor to Viipuri. Extensive beautiful parks provide shade and fascinating pictures to the eye. They spread round the town like a green girdle and form immensely popular oases in its midst. Street-cars, omnibuses, the taxis standing everywhere around, even open horse-cabs that bring to mind "old Viipuri", are at the service of the visitor.

YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT OF VISITING VIIPURI, or may find yourself compelled to stop if only for a brief space



*Municipal Library*

Photo: Welin

in the town. In that event it may interest you to know something about the place beforehand.

BY YOUR LEAVE, THEREFORE, A BRIEF INTRODUCTION. An outline only. The merest sketch.

A MITE OF HISTORY, to begin with, is unavoidable. For only in its light can the visitor grasp the essence of the town.

We go back in time a thousand years and more and find the locality already an important strategic point and trading centre dominating a water-route of great significance. A pagan trading post fortified with earthworks exists on the site.

The recorded history of Viipuri begins in the year 1293 A.D. In that year the Mareschal of Sweden Torkkeli Knuutinpoika, or to give his Swedish name Tyrgil Knutsson, sailed with a crusading fleet into the eastern waters of the Gulf of Finland, marched into Carelia and founded the castle of Viipuri, "of strength invincible". The medieval history of this stout outpost of Swedish power and western civilization tells indeed of many sieges that failed. As a medieval chronicler wrote: Moscorum busta Viburgum (= Viipuri is the Muscovite's grave).

Many of the medieval lords of Viipuri were knights of such power and independence that their fief became truly "a realm within a realm". They waged war on their own behalf,



County Archives

Photo: Pietinen

concluded peace treaties and in other ways played the game of high politics. Court life in the castle assumed at times such brilliant forms that young nobles were sent there from Sweden to learn courtly manners. One warden of Viipuri was even raised to the throne. The town and its trade flourished at the same time, and intercourse was lively between Viipuri and the Hansa towns of the Baltic and North Sea.

This phase of brilliancy did not endure. At the beginning of the modern period Viipuri was being governed by Lieutenant-Governors, and in 1710, after a long and destructive siege, the town fell into the hands of Peter the Great. During the period of Russian rule the reign of Catherine II in particular left traces on the town that are still discernible to-day.

Thereafter the development of the town hung fire until the latter half of the 19th century, when the opening of the Saimaa Canal (1856) and the completion of the Riihimäki—St. Petersburg railway (1870) provided the needed impetus to further

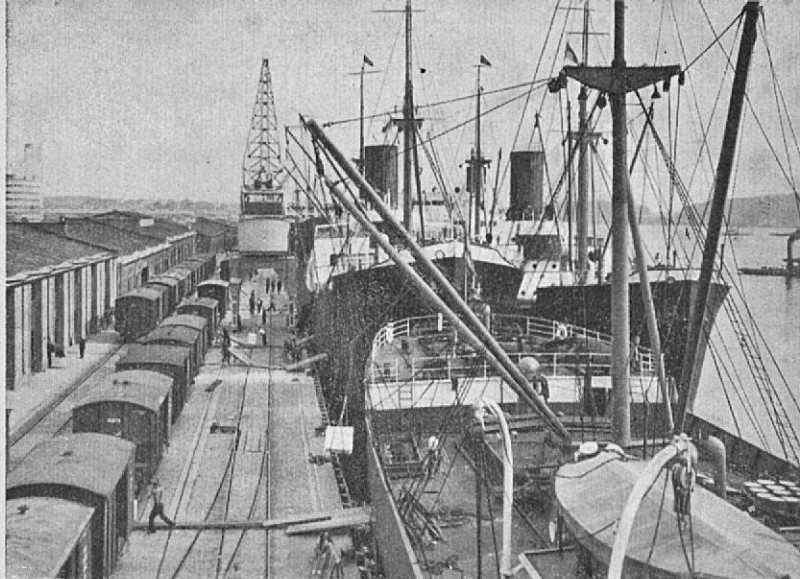


Left  
The Cathedral

Right  
Agricola Monument

Photo: I. Raekallio





The Harbour

Foto: Helios

growth, with the result that the present business quarters began to take shape. The past few decades have been a time of continuous growth. The present population is roughly 84.000.

THE PICTURE NOW PRESENTED BY VIIPURI is a fascinating blend of old and new. Right in the heart of the greatly expanded town a fragment of that *old Viipuri* has been preserved, whose vicissitudes over a period of more than six hundred years have faithfully mirrored the fate of the country as a whole.

It is this "old town" that is Viipuri's biggest source of charm. Beside it on a small island rises the ancient key to Carelia, the castle of rich memories, manned as before by the defenders of Finland. Its gates, however, are not closed to tourists, of whom thousands each year climb the tower to enjoy the extensive views.

Opposite the castle is the point of land on which the old town was built, still spotted with interesting historical buildings.



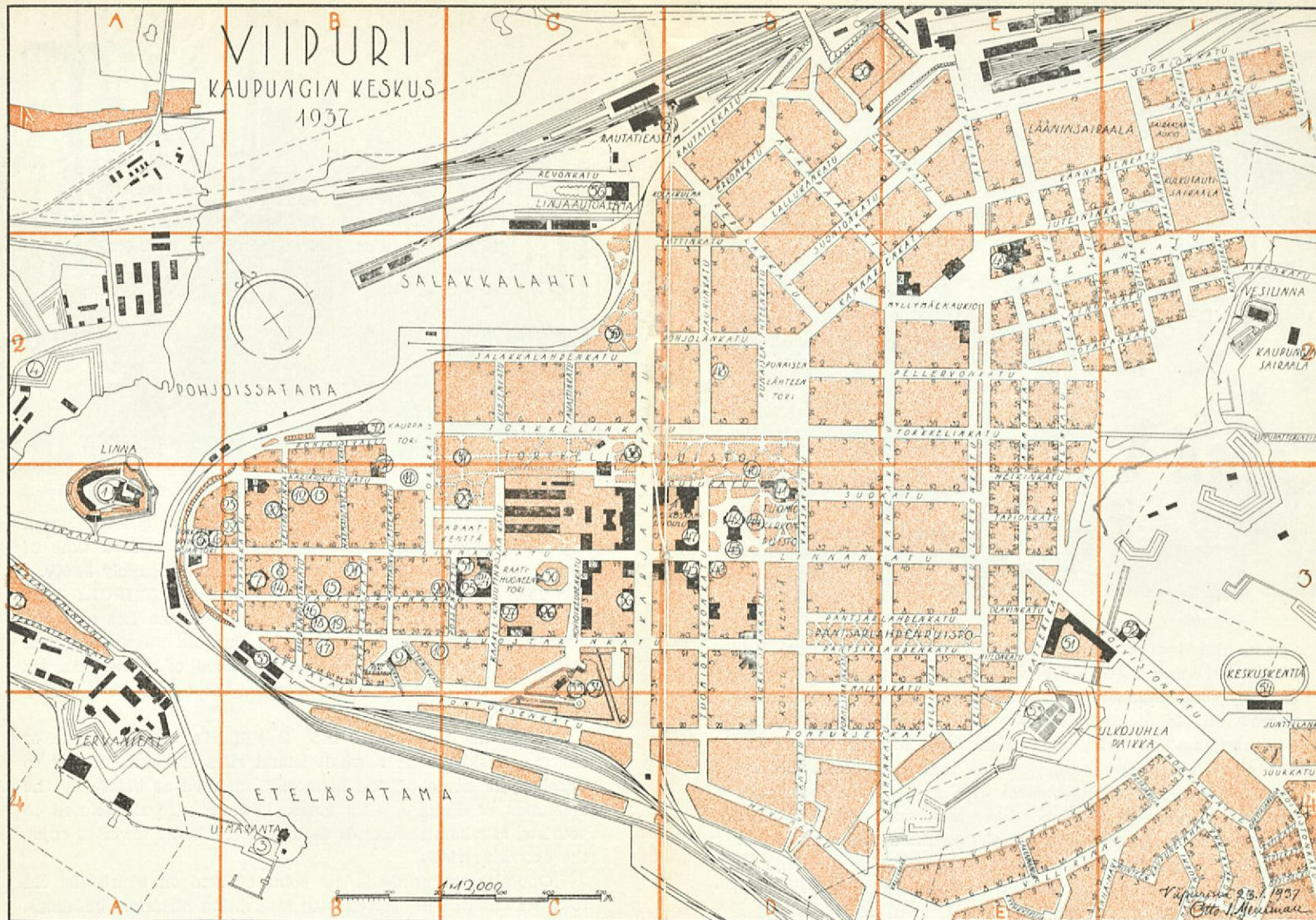
Left

The Round Tower  
Photo: I. Raekallio



Right Belfry  
form. Council Tower  
Photo: Th. Nyblin





## Sights and Public Buildings

(The letters and numerals below refer to the square in the plan in which the building will be found)

- |                                                                 |                                             |                                        |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Viipuri Castle A3                                            | 14. Old yard, Vahtitorninkatu 8 B3          | 29. German-Swedish church C3           | 44. War Memorial D3                     |
| 2. County Archives A3                                           | 15. " " 12 B3                               | 30. Greek-Orthodox Cathedral C3        | 45. County Administration D3            |
| 3. Tervaniemi bathing-beach B4                                  | 16. " " Uudenportink. 5 B3                  | 31. Old Fire Brigade headquarters C3   | 46. Governor's residence D3             |
| 4. St. Anne fortifications A2                                   | 17. " " Luostarinkatu 7 B3                  | 32. Market Hall B2                     | 47. General Post Office D3              |
| 5. Statue of Torkkeli Knuutinpoika A3                           | 18. " " 8 B3                                | 33. Customs Office B3                  | 48. Congregational Offices D2           |
| 6. Viipuri Museum A3                                            | 19. " " 10 B3                               | 34. Panssarilahti Bastion C3           | 49. Fire Brigade Headquarters E2        |
| 7. Old Cathedral (Agricola Church) B3                           | 20. Church of St. Hyacinth (R. Catholic) B3 | 35. Art Museum C3                      | 50. Church of St. Elia (Greek Orth.) D1 |
| 8. Belfry of above B3                                           | 21. Medieval build. Pampalankatu 12 B3      | 36. Telegraph and pub. teleph. off. C3 | 51. Trades School E3                    |
| 9. Former monastery church of the Black Friars B3               | 22. " " Piispankatu 12 B3                   | 37. Fountain with statutory C2         | 52. Industrial and Sawmilling School F3 |
| 10. Belfry of above (form. Council Tower, part of town wall) B3 | 23. " " 16 B3                               | 38. "Son of the Forest", sculpture C2  | 53. Site for open-air festivals E4      |
| 11. The Round Tower B3                                          | 24. City Hall C3                            | 39. "The Fish Boys", sculpture C2      | 54. Central athletic field & F3-4       |
| 12. Old yard, Karjaportinkatu 5 B3                              | 25. Theatre C3                              | 40. "The Elk", animal sculpture D2-3   | 55. Railway Station C1-D1               |
| 13. " " 7 B3                                                    | 26. Court of Appeal C3                      | 41. Municipal Library D3               | 56. Motorbus station C1                 |
|                                                                 | 27. House of President of C. of App. C3     | 42. The new Cathedral D3               | 57. Police Station B2-3                 |
|                                                                 | 28. Bishop's Council and residence B3       | 43. Mikael Agricola monument D3        |                                         |





The Market Place



Photo: Pietinen

Photo: Helios

One of the first to attract our attention is the *Historical Museum* on the site of the old Town Hall with a *statue of Torkkeli Knuutinpöika*, founder of the castle, in front of it. The quiet narrow streets of the old town seem to whisper of bygone centuries; the exploring pedestrian finds himself drawn now into an 18th century atmosphere, now taken right back into the Middle Ages. The old *Cathedral* with its separate, beautifully designed belfry, a church that was once a Dominican monastery's sanctuary, the simple dignified front of an old patrician dwelling — all these bear a greeting to the beholder from centuries long past. Hidden in house-yards one finds, in quaint contrast to the modern houses, worn buildings whose exterior hints of a past going right back into the stormy Middle Ages. On such a walk one can rest and refresh oneself in a



Monk's Square

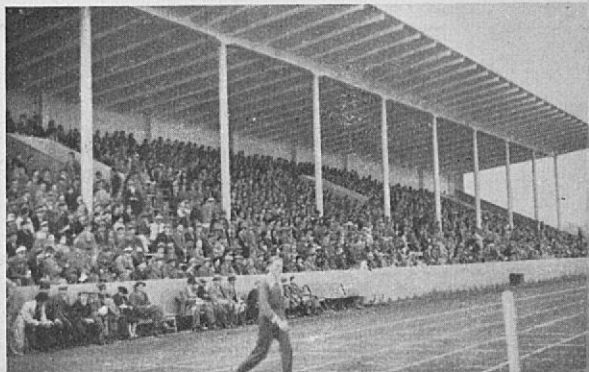
Photo: Th. Nyblin

Tervaniemi beach



Photo: Helios

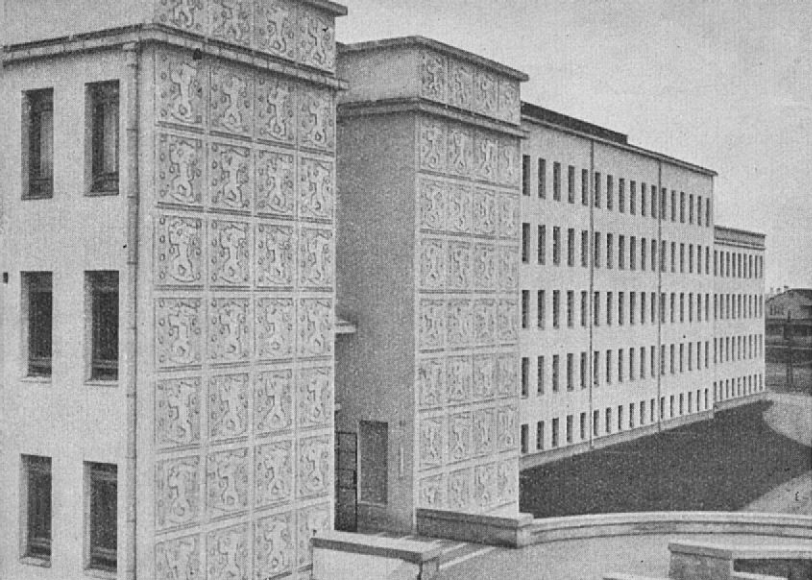
restaurant conjured forth by an architect's skilled hand within the *Round Tower*, a former strong point of the town wall and scene of many furious fights; the paintings on the walls depict in airy fashion phases of the town's history. Then when the stroller again comes to a halt on the high terrace that confines the old town on its seaward side, to gaze out over the 20th century bustle of the harbour and the fine view of water and islands beyond that, let him remember that here too he is on historical ground, on the former town wall. The adjacent *Pantsarlahti Bastion* will help him to realise this. However, the highly modern *Art Museum* (architect U. Ullberg) that now crowns it, and likewise the elegant *Provincial Archives* (same architect) opposite the castle, soon turn his thoughts to present-day Viipuri. The spacious ultramodern silos, mills and storage



Grandstand at  
athletic grounds

Photo: SVO





*Military Hospital*

buildings and rows of electric cranes confirm the modern spirit of the community.

Fittingly, therefore, we turn our steps to the lively traffic of the *new Viipuri*, whose main streets bear out Viipuri's claim to be the second *commercial city* of Finland. Fine business buildings, banks, the show-windows of shops. We may pause to study the new Library Building (arch. Alvar Aalto), an architectural marvel. Or go farther afield to see buildings and institutions representing the last word of modern technics and taste, examples being the new hospitals and schools.

Quite in the middle of the town is the *Torkkeli Park*, notable for its size and the luxuriance of its foliage, with magnificent long alleys of limes, flowerbeds, statuary and fountains. From the terraced restaurant *Espilä* visible between the trees music sounds temptingly. The market-places flanking both ends of the park yield glimpses of the life of the people, a life typical of the traditionally lively and spirited Carelians.



*Municipal hospitals  
and water-tower*

Photo: Helios



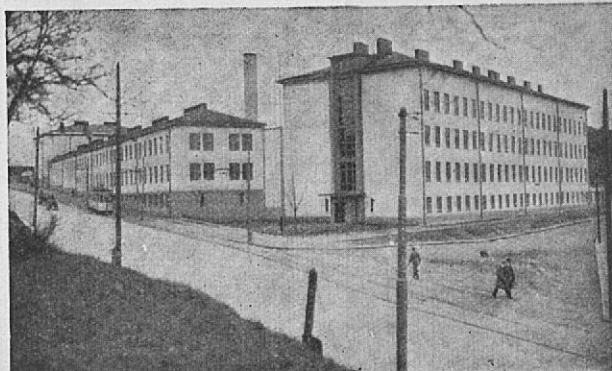
Industrial and Sawmilling School

Photo: K. V. Miettinen

For rest on our rambles we are by no means confined to the central oasis mentioned above. We can pay a visit, for example, to the hilly natural park *Papula*, from where we have splendid views of the town and the surrounding waters. Here too is a popular restaurant, built by the local branch of the Tourist Association, from the balcony of which the view is of unforgettable beauty especially at sunset. Viipuri also has a park of international reputation in old *Monrepos*, for which however a half-day should be reserved.

In introducing Viipuri we must not forget to mention its *artistic interests*. The town has one theatre over a hundred years old, another highly original open-air theatre built on the ramparts, a symphony orchestra, two schools of music and an art school. Numerous choral societies help to maintain Viipuri's reputation as capital of "singing Carelia".

For its *athletic and sporting interests* Viipuri is famed in Finland. Many of the well-known local clubs possess buildings of their own with training accomodation. The municipal



Trades School

Photo: I. Raekallio

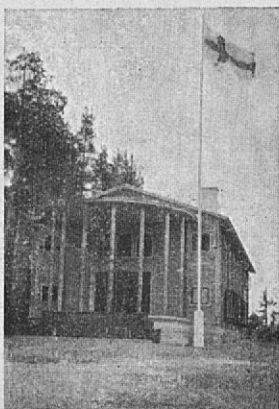
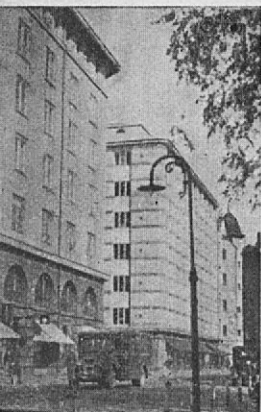


South Harbour

Photo: Pietinen

Stadium is well on the way to completion and already exciting sports events are held in the summer on its green sward.

The above brief remarks will, we hope, have shown the reader that Viipuri is a hospitable town to those who visit it. But, as we have remarked, besides being of interest in itself, Viipuri is above all the gateway to the chief tourist attractions of East Finland. From its roomy granite-faced *Railway Station* trains carry groups of tourists each summer day to *Imatra (Vallinkoski)*, *Savonlinna (Punkaharju)*, *Sortavala (for Valamo)*, *Koli*, *Terijoki* and many other localities sought out by tourists. From the *motorbus* station, perhaps the most modern of its kind in the Northern Countries, buses speed tourists, besides to places already mentioned, to idyllic *Lappeenranta* and its hydro, to the seaside sands of the *Carelian Isthmus (Terijoki, Kuokkala)*, to the beautiful landscapes of the *Vuoksi* and *Suvanto*, and the shore of sea-like *Lake Ladoga* (visit to the *Konevitsa Mona-*



Left

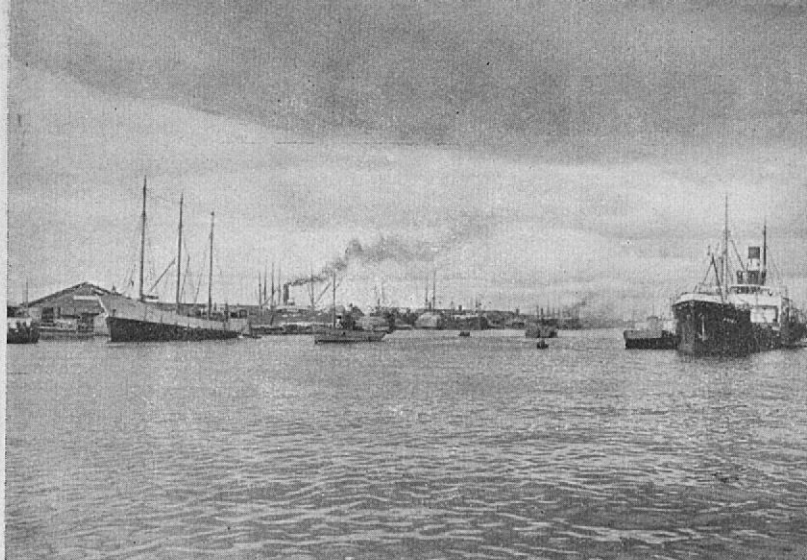
Newest Viipuri

Photo: I. Raekallio

Right

Tanhuvacra, women's physical culture centre

Photo: SVO



The outer harbour Uuras

Photo: Th. Nyblin

stery). The interesting *eastern frontier* is only 2½ hours from Viipuri by rail.

The *Saimaa Canal*, running through idyllic country, affords a delightful trip of an hour by steam launch to the first locks at *Juustila*, also reached by bus in half an hour. The big *outer harbour Uuras* with its bustle of timber loading, the adjacent *bathing beach at Mäntysaari*, and Koivisto with its beach and Casino, are other goals for easy excursions.

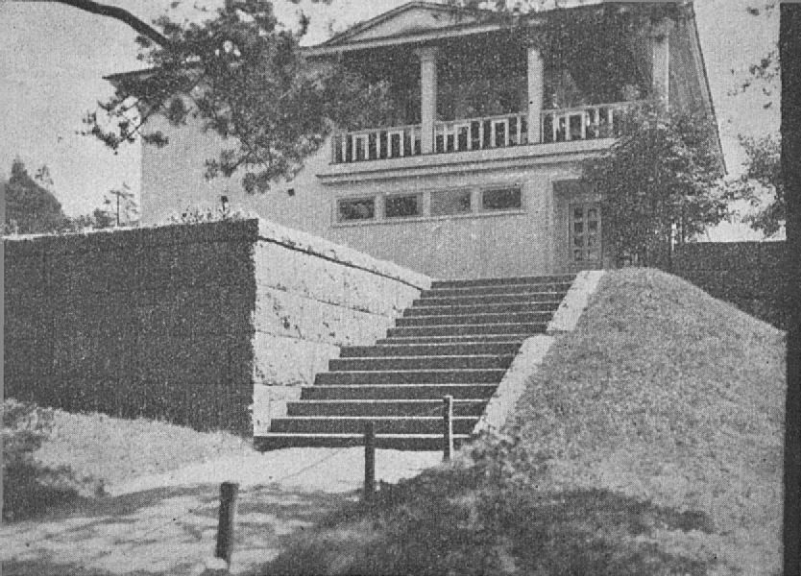
There is thus no lack of variety in the short and long excursions that can be made. Indeed, the visitor is likely to be embarrassed by the richness of the choice. But to help him in this — and other problems — *the local section of the Finnish Tourist Association maintains a Tourist Advice Office* in the entrance hall of the Railway Station (teleph. 34 20). The *Municipal Excursion Board* also assists in every way the organization of visits by parties. The Secretary and Excursion Agent of the Board is *Mr. J. Sarvi*, telephone 15 62.

Left  
Monrepos Park  
Photo: I. Raekallio

Right  
»Väinämöinen«  
Monrepos  
Photo Adam







Pavilion, Papula

Photo: Adam

Visitors to Viipuri will find the *Guide to Viipuri*, published in five languages by the Excursion Board, a great help to them. It cost only a trifle and is obtainable at the Tourist Advice Office at the Railway Station, bookshops in the town, the railway bookstall, etc.

The best season to visit Viipuri is during the summer months, June, July and August, when the many beautiful parks are at their best and the weather can in general be relied on not to let the visitor down. The average July temperature is  $+ 17.4^{\circ} \text{C}$ , and on fine summer days a temperature of  $20-25^{\circ} \text{C}$  in the shade is usual. Cooling sea-breezes are prevalent.

THE JOURNEY TO VIIPURI takes about 55 hours by steamer and rail from *Stettin* (including stop of abt. 5 hrs in Helsinki), from *Stockholm* via Turku (Åbo) about 24 hours, and from *Tallinn* (including stop of 3—5 hrs in Helsinki) about 12—14 hours. From *Helsinki* by express train 5 hours.

By air and rail Viipuri can be reached from *Stockholm* (incl. stop of abt 5 hrs in Helsinki) in about 14 hours, and from *Tallinn* (incl. 1 hrs stop in Helsinki) in about 7 hours.

In conclusion may we bid the reader a hearty welcome to Viipuri. A formal introduction has been effected. Come and cement it into a real friendship. Come and see with your own eyes

Viipuri, the old and hospitable,  
Viipuri, the youthful and gay,  
Viipuri, for its parks and its past,

*Viipuri, the town where the centuries meet.*





# SUOMI

